

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 SCS-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 FBO-02

SCCT-01 DHA-02 AID-05 CCO-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSC-05 SP-02 OC-05 OPR-02 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01

A-01 SS-15 SY-05 /089 W
----- 089217

O 160545Z AUG 75 ZFF 4
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7727
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMCONGEN CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, BG
SUBJ: COUP IN BANGLADESH: SITUATION REPORT NO. 5

REF DACCA 3953

1. DACCA REMAINED CALM OVERNIGHT. MARINE GUARDS ON
EMBASSY ROOF REPORTED ALMOST NO MOVEMENT IN STREETS AND
NO GUN FIRE; AT BEST TWO OR THREE SINGLE SHOTS WERE HEARD
ELSEWHERE IN CITY. EMBASSY CAR MOVED EASILY THROUGH
STREETS THIS MORNING; NUMBER OF TANKS IN CITY ITSELF
APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REDUCED. CURFEW HAS BEEN LIFTED
FOR THREE HOURS FROM 0930 TO 1230 AND THERE IS SOME
QUESTION WHETHER IT WILL BE REIMPOSED BEFORE DUSK. PEDESTRIAN AND
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VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IS STILL LIGHT BUT PEOPLE APPEAR TO

BE GOING ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS IN CONTRAST TO LOITERING YESTERDAY. AFTER HIS 0900-HOUR CHECK WITH PERSONNEL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, SMALLPOX ERADICATION PROGRAM DIRECTOR SAYS HIS OFFICES REPORT THAT ALL WAS QUIET LAST NIGHT.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT A GROUP MILITARY OFFICERS IS WORKING ON MARTIAL LAW REGULATIONS AND SOME DIRECTIVES HAVE ALREADY APPEARED IN DACCA PRESS. FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO REMAIN OPEN AROUND-THE-CLOCK: HOSPITALS, WATER SUPPLY, GOVERNMENT TRANSPORT POOL, POWER INSTALLATIONS, TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPHS, FIRE BRIGADE, MUNICIPAL SERVICES SUCH AS SWEEPING, GARBAGE CLEANING, ETC. LAST EVENING ALL MAGISTRATES, COMMISSIONERS, AND SUPERINTENDENTS OF POLICE WHO ARE OUT OF THEIR DISTRICTS WERE ORDERED TO RETURN AND TAKE UP THEIR DUTIES. JOURNALISTS AND PRESSMEN OF ALL DAILY NEWSPAPERS WERE ALSO DIRECTED TO REPORT TO WORK IMMEDIATELY AND THIS MORNING ABBREVIATED EDITIONS OF NEWSPAPERS APPEARED.

3. IN INI FIRST POLICY DECISION, THE CIVILIAN CABINET HAS ANNOUNCED THAT A MAXIMUM OF 8,000 TAKA WILL BE REFUNDED IN LIEU OF THE DEPOSITED HUNDRED TAKA DEMONETIZED NOTES. DECISION WAS TAKEN AT CABINET MEETING LAST NIGHT. THIS IS A 1000 PERCENT INCREASE OVER MAXIMUM OF 800 TAKA REIMBURSEMENT PERMITTED BY MUJIB'S GOVERNMENT.

4. BOTH ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILIES CARRIED ON FRONT PAGE BRIEF FOUR-PARAGRAPH REUTERS REPORT ON STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S REMARK RE COUP. HEADLINED "US READY TO CONDUCT NORMAL DIPLOMATIC BUSINESS", ARTICLE CITES SPOKESMAN AS SAYING US EMBASSY HAD NOT BEEN CONTACTED BY NEW RULERS BUT IF US WERE APPROACHED IT WILL BE PREPARED TO CONDUCT NORMAL BUSINESS.

5. NEWSPAPERS ALSO CARRY REUTERS REPORT ON BHUTTO'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOP'S DECISION TO IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZE NEW GOVERNMENT AND HIS APPEAL TO ISLAMIC CONFERENCE MEMBERS AND OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE NEW LEADERSHIP.

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6. ONLY OFFICIAL DIRECT CONTACT EMBASSY HAS HAD WITH MILITARY OFFICERS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT SO FAR OCCURRED LAST EVENING. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY INQUIRY REGARDING CURFEW PASSES, TWO OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LANCERS CAME TO EMBASSY ON THEIR INITIATIVE AROUND 2130 HOURS TO OFFER ESCORT SERVICES TO MISSION PERSONNEL TRAVELING BETWEEN CHANCERY AND RESIDENCES DURING EVENING HOURS. IN AMIABLE AND COOPERATIVE MANNER, THEY FURTHER URGED THAT EMBASSY PERSONNEL

NOT MOVE ABOUT UNESCORTED AT ALL DURING CURFEW. EMBOFFS
INDICATED THAT WE DID NOT FEEL NEED FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE
AT THAT TIME.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, PROGRESS REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, SITREP 5
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DACCA03957
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750284-0069
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750845/aaaabmxh.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 DACCA 3953
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUP IN BANGLADESH: SITUATION REPORT NO. 5
TAGS: PINT, PINS, BG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006